

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Arkansas

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Arkansas

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,350,725 (1990 census), 2,673,400 (2000 census)
- Age: 25.4% under 18 years old, 14.0% 65 years or older
- Racial/Ethnicity: 80% White; 15.7% Black; .7% American Indian and Alaska Native; .8% Asian; and 78.6% Hispanic Origin
- Percent of Population Below Poverty Level (1997): 17.5%

Politics²

- Governor: Mike Huckabee (R)
- Lieutenant Governor: Winthrop P. Rockefeller (R)
- Attorney General: Mark Pryor
- U.S. Senators: Blanche Lincoln (D), Tim Hutchinson (R)³
- U.S. Representatives: Marion Berry (D), John Boozman (R), Mike Ross (D), and Vic Snyder (D)⁴

Programs/Initiatives

- In FY 2001, ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded \$99,848 under the Drug Free Communities Support Program to the Rogers Development Foundation.⁵
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed
 - There are 2 Weed and Seed sites in Arkansas, Pine Bluff and Texarkana.⁶

Crime and Drug-Related Crime⁷

- In 2000, there were 12,229 arrests for drug abuse violations in the state of Arkansas.

Offenses Reported in Arkansas 1998 - 2000

| Offense | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter | 173 | 171 | 161 |
| Forcible Rape | 378 | 391 | 353 |
| Robbery | 864 | 779 | 764 |
| Aggravated Assault | 3,738 | 4,117 | 3,681 |
| Burglary | 3,233 | 3,384 | 2,720 |
| Larceny Theft | 14,237 | 13,824 | 12,621 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 576 | 537 | 480 |
| Arson | 118 | 115 | 115 |
| Drug Abuse Violations | 13,155 | 14,615 | 12,229 |
| DUI | 16,890 | 18,290 | 16,640 |
| Liquor Laws | 3,224 | 3,521 | 2,541 |

- There were a total of 14,685 drug arrests in Arkansas during 2000.⁸

Drug Arrests in Arkansas, 2000

| Drug Offenses | Total | Juvenile | Adult | White | Black | Other |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Narcotic- Sale/Manufacturing | | | | | | |
| Opium or Cocaine | 776 | 18 | 758 | 333 | 443 | 0 |
| Marijuana | 1,026 | 82 | 944 | 733 | 286 | 7 |
| Synthetic Narcotics | 1,552 | 19 | 1,533 | 1,486 | 63 | 3 |
| Other Dangerous Non-Narcotics Drugs | 120 | 5 | 115 | 117 | 3 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 3,474 | 124 | 3,350 | 2,669 | 795 | 10 |
| Narcotic- Possession | | | | | | |
| Opium or Cocaine | 1,482 | 64 | 1,418 | 718 | 755 | 9 |
| Marijuana | 7,326 | 848 | 6,478 | 5,107 | 2,187 | 32 |
| Synthetic Narcotics | 1,827 | 61 | 1,766 | 1,653 | 163 | 11 |
| Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs | 576 | 41 | 535 | 470 | 104 | 2 |
| Subtotal | 11,211 | 1,014 | 10,197 | 7,948 | 3,209 | 54 |
| Total All Drug Offenses | 14,685 | 1,138 | 13,547 | 10,617 | 4,004 | 64 |

Enforcement

- As of October 2000, 7,375 persons were employed as law enforcement personnel in Arkansas. Of these persons, 2,472 were civilians and 4,903 were officers.⁹

Drugs

- Arkansas law enforcement officials seized record high 554 methamphetamine laboratories in 1999. During 1994, authorities found 6 working labs this rose to 242 labs in 1997.
- Methamphetamine availability has increased significantly throughout the Southeast over the past few years. Law enforcement agencies in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee all reported increases in methamphetamine seizures and case initiations. The Arkansas State Police, for example, reported that methamphetamine-related cases rose from 543 in 1988 to over 2,000 in 1995. In contrast to the general regional trend toward reliance on outside suppliers, clandestine methamphetamine production continues in Arkansas, south Alabama, and sections of Tennessee.¹⁰

Juveniles¹¹

- A survey of Arkansas's high school students in 1999 revealed that 44.9% had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime and 24.4% were current marijuana users.

Percent of Arkansas High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

| Drug Type and Use | Female | Male | Total |
|---|--------|-------|-------|
| Lifetime Marijuana Use (1) | 41.9% | 47.9% | 44.9% |
| Current Marijuana Use (2) | 19.6 | 29.2 | 24.4 |
| Lifetime Cocaine Use | 8.7 | 11.7 | 10.2 |
| Current Cocaine Use | 3.1 | 6.1 | 4.6 |
| Lifetime Inhalant Use | 16.6 | 16.7 | 16.7 |
| Current Inhalant Use | 4.5 | 5.2 | 4.8 |
| Lifetime Heroin Use | 2.8 | 5.8 | 4.3 |
| Lifetime Meth Use | 12.9 | 15.0 | 13.9 |
| Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use | 3.1 | 6.9 | 5.0 |
| Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use (3) | 2.3 | 5.3 | 3.8 |

- During 2000, there were 1,680 juveniles arrested in Arkansas for drug abuse violations.¹²

Juvenile Arrests in Arkansas, 1998-2000

| Offense | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter | 24 | 17 | 18 |
| Forcible Rape | 62 | 44 | 38 |
| Robbery | 183 | 140 | 104 |
| Aggravated Assault | 469 | 454 | 332 |
| Burglary | 1,045 | 910 | 780 |
| Larceny Theft | 3,757 | 3,404 | 3,034 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 225 | 183 | 134 |
| Arson | 26 | 23 | 24 |
| Drug Abuse Violations | 1,184 | 1,148 | 1,680 |
| DUI | 278 | 252 | 252 |
| Liquor Laws | 623 | 614 | 355 |

Trafficking and Seizures¹³

- There were 99,056 marijuana plants eradicated in Arkansas during 2000.

Marijuana Eradication, Arkansas 1998-2000

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Outdoor Operations</i> | | | |
| Plots Eradicated | 476 | 332 | 475 |
| Cultivated Plants Eradicated | 32,151 | 79,069 | 98,133 |
| <i>Indoor Operations</i> | | | |
| Grows Seized | 18 | 16 | 18 |
| Plants Eradicated | 642 | 334 | 923 |
| Total Plants Eradicated | 32,793 | 79,403 | 99,056 |
| Number of Arrests | 97 | 73 | 60 |
| Number of Weapons Seized | 88 | 66 | 69 |
| Value of Assets Seized | \$50,455 | \$20,145 | \$458,710 |

Courts¹⁴

- Of the 355 Federal defendants in Arkansas during FY 2000, 42.3% were charged with a drug-related offense. The most common drugs involved were methamphetamine (41.9%), followed by crack cocaine (29.7%), powder cocaine (16.9%), marijuana (8.8%), and heroin (0.7%).

Corrections¹⁵

- On August 23, 2000, there were 10,193 adult males and 662 adult females incarcerated in state correctional facilities.
- At the end of Fiscal Year 1999, 56.9% of the inmate population was incarcerated for a nonviolent offense. The most common nonviolent offense was violation of the state's controlled substance laws, followed by burglary, theft and robbery.

Treatment

- There were 12,956 admissions to substance abuse treatment facilities in 2000 in Arkansas.

Primary Drug Problem at Admission, Arkansas, 2000¹⁶

| Drug Type | Total | Percentage |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Alcohol only | 3,201 | 24.7% |
| Alcohol w/ secondary drug | 2,315 | 17.9% |
| Cocaine (smoked) | 1,644 | 12.7% |
| Cocaine (other route) | 262 | 2.0% |
| Marijuana | 2,557 | 19.7% |
| Heroin | 55 | 0.4% |
| Amphetamines | 2,362 | 18.2% |
| Inhalants | 21 | 0.2% |
| TOTAL | 12,956 | 100% |

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² State of Arkansas Web site: <http://www.state.ar.us/>
- ³ U. S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>
- ⁴ U. S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://www.house.gov>
- ⁵ ONDCP and OJJDP, Drug Free-Community Support Program: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html>
- ⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Executive Office of Weed and Seed: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/map/ar.htm>
- ⁷ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States, 1998, 1999, 2000: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>
- ⁸ Arkansas Crime Information Center, *Crime in Arkansas, 2000*: <http://www.acic.org/statistics/stats.htm>
- ⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States, 2000: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>
- ¹⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, *Methamphetamine Situation in the U.S.*, March 1996.
- ¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 1999*, June 2000.
- ¹² U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States, 1998, 1999, 2000: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>
- ¹³ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, Drug Enforcement Administration, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program*, 1998, 1999, 2000.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov/>
- ¹⁵ Arkansas Department of Corrections, FAQ section: <http://www.state.ar.us/doc/faqs.html>
- ¹⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, Office of Applied Studies, Drug and Alcohol Service Information System, Treatment Episode Data Set, Treatment Data by State, Arkansas, 2000: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/newmapv1.htm>

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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

